

on public worship. Most of us are teachers or scholars in the Sabbath school. We also have access to extensive libraries, and enjoy the pleasure of listening weekly to popular lectures before the lyceum, and in addition to many other sources of information, we take "the papers," write for them occasionally, read political speeches, and censure or applaud as we please, the efforts of our public servants in Congress, as their political principles do or do not comport with our ideas

slaves, we take an honest pride in hurling back the vile slander into the very face and eyes of the man who dares to utter it. My dear sir, you have undertaken an Herculean task, if you think to fasten on the Yankee girls the odious epithet of

have undertaken an Herculean task, if you think to fasten on the Yankee girls the opprobrious epithets of "slaves," by any comparison which you

I close with an invitation for you to visit us as time and circumstances may suit your convenience.

We should be happy to see you. And should you come among us, as you behold us in the prosecution of our honest labors, let the blush of shame mantle your cheeks, that in your ignorance of our

true condition, in your place in the Senate Cham-

apply to us the loathing and disgraceful epithets attached to slavery in any of its forms.

Hon. J. Clements, Alabama.

**FREEDOM TO POSTERITY.**

To the Editor of the *National Era*:

DEAR SIR: In looking over the speeches that have been delivered during the present session of Congress, I am happy to discover a renewed in-

position on the part of all to "stand by the Constitution." Perhaps there is no class of speakers, who have dwelled longer or piped louder upon this topic than the propagandists of slavery. By the term "propagandists of slavery," I mean the whole compromising host. To this class of speakers, I beg the leave of submitting through your crowded columns a few particulars.

exponent of those principles for the protection of which this "supreme law of the land" was ordained and established. Well, in consulting said preamble, I am led by the exercise of my frail powers of reason to conclude that there are a number of clauses there which come in fearful conflict with the perpetuation, by compromise or otherwise, of the "peculiar institution;" one only of which shall burden your attention at this time.

in order to secure the blessings of LIBERTY to ourselves and "our posterity," do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." This clause makes "all posterity" free; therefore all who acknowledge the supremacy of the Constitution must give their "posterity" freedom. Now then it is a notorious fact, conceded by all, that many, very many of American slaves are mulattoes, not negroes. Whence came this

Answer this ye who would "stand by the Constitution," ye who daily gaze upon their bleeding backs and sweating brows, ye who of a *truth* do know. Answer this, and blush for shame.

It is said of old, "that a word to the wise is sufficient," and at present, we pursue our theme no farther than to add the prayer, that, during the adjournment of Congress, the Secretary of

State, and the active, will take his travels Southward, well supplied with "preamble," and find how many who now taste "unrequited toil" by virtue of that preamble, are freemen; and then in the second session of the Thirty-First Congress, show, he by his official influence, and they by their votes, that their respect for the Constitution is not *all* profession, but that facts, Constitution, and con-

science, can work a noble work. A. S. HALL.

*New Lyme, Ohio, Sept. 23, 1850.*

SPARTA, RANDOLPH CO., ILL., Sept. 2, 1850.

To the Editor of the *National Era*:

DEAR SIR:—Although this section of country is but little known, and consequently attracts but little attention abroad, yet it is somewhat important.

most southern part of the State where there is any anti-slavery organization, or, indeed, any anti-slavery feeling in that respect, almost like an Oasis in the desert. It was partially settled near thirty years ago by emigrants mostly of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian, and Reformed Presbyterian denominations from Newbury, Fairfield, and Chester districts, South Carolina, who fled from the prison-house of Southern bondage

has been augmented from time to time by accessions from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and a few from some of the other States, and of late years a very respectable and steadily increasing emigration from Scotland. True to the old proverb, "birds of a feather flock together." A large majority are still anti-slavery, the free-soilers polling double the number of votes of all others in this precinct. For intelligence,

morally, and religion; this vicinity will compare favorably with any portion of the country East or West. Within a circle of twelve or fourteen miles each way from this place there are no less than sixteen churches, one or two in progress of erection, mostly large, valuable brick edifices, the most of them belonging to the different Presbyterian denominations, with some to Methodists and Baptists.

erty a statement in the rule of three, your readers will be able to tell, or at least to come near enough to the number of school-houses in the same bounds, as I believe they will generally be found to be in proportion to each other. Southern Illinois is sometimes called Egypt, the name, as we are told by some, originating in the fact of the far-famed American bottom being so productive of corn, and for many years furnishing the more northern parts of the State, in times of

scarcely, with that very necessary article—by others, originating from the intellectual darkness and rather benighted state of the inhabitants. We have no objection to the name, from whatever it may have arisen; but you will recollect, there was a Goshen in Egypt, and we would suggest whether this be not the place. Sparta is in the Northwestern part of the country, forty-five miles from St. Louis, and sixteen miles from Chester, on the Mississippi, to which a turnpike

road is contemplated, is surrounded by a fertile and flourishing country, many good farms with substantial and comfortable houses and barns, a goodly number of fine orchards; some of the finest peaches in the United States are raised in this vicinity. Two newspapers are published here, one free soil, the *Sparta Freeman*, edited and published by J. N. Coleman, is ably and tastefully conducted, and is exercising a healthful influence on the literary, moral, and anti-slavery sentiments

The village, by the census just taken, numbers 475 inhabitants, has six stores, two apothecaries, and no groceries. There is more business here than in any place of its size I have ever been acquainted with East or West. There are a considerable number of newspapers, of which, to-

ever, there is great lack in most branches. There are two churches in the place, one A. R. Presbyterian, and one Methodist, with others at no inconvenient distance; a steam saw and flouring mill, and an additional one projected to be of large capacity.

An excellent steam-power-loom woollen factory has gone into operation this season. Persons from Steubenville and Dayton, Ohio, who have risked their capital in the canal location for

manufacturing, from the abundance and cheapness of coal, which is supplied at present from pits a mile and a half distant. They are some twenty-five feet deep, the coal seven feet in thickness; it is raised to the surface by horse power, and is of excellent quality. Some of the best judges are of opinion that, taking into consideration the cost of dams, the loss of time by freezing, by high and low water, that where fuel is so cheap as it is in this valley, there can

able power than water. The cheapness of provisions, the low price of wood, and the opportunity which the surrounding country presents for disposing of goods of the heavier kinds, it is thought will be favorable to this place as a manufacturing point. The health is as good here as in most parts of the West. The use of bituminous coal is thought by medical men to be in some measure an antidote to fevers and other diseases to which the country is subject in the fall and winter.

some 500,000 lbs. of pork, worth \$2 per 100 lbs, were salted here, and 12,000 gallons of castor oil, made, worth \$1.50 per gallon. The castor bean is more extensively raised in this vicinity than in any other part of the country; it is easy of production, not more difficult than corn, and is cultivated much after the same manner. It generally pays the producer well; the average yield

... ..



is about fifteen bushels per acre, present price \$1.50 per bushel. The beans grow in hills around a stalk, which rises from the main stem of the plant. The plant itself grows from three to six feet high, with numerous branches; the pods, as they are called, when ripe, are cut off, and laid on a board. The sun dries the pods, which causes them to open, and the beans to come out. The field requires to be gone over twice a week, and the ripe pods cut off; they ripen unevenly from near the ground to the top of the branches; the beans are cleaned from the hulls in a common mill, when they are ready for market. To obtain the oil from the beans, they are heated in large sheet iron pans, and the oil pressed out by screw, or hydraulic press; it is clarified by boiling; after which it is bottled, and is then fit for use.

Produce can be shipped from this place almost all days of the year. The Mississippi is scarcely ever closed below this, which enables us to reach the Eastern, and, if desired, the foreign markets, at a time when the more northern parts of the country are locked up by winter. All the difficulties of the settlement of a new country have been surmounted. Mills, schools, and churches, are abundant; and yet many of our people are anxious to remove farther West—in some, the spirit of enterprise, the longing for a new home never likely to be obtained good. The offered happiness of life in a new country in early times, so eloquently depicted by the first settlers, and the spirit of adventure so characteristic of the Western people, tends to unsettle numbers of them—the Rocky mountains are to the west, California to the south, and the gold fields, and the promise of a new world, are before them; and we are on the shores of the Mississippi instead of the Pacific. Once determined on emigrating, there is no stop; bent on going, at all risks, they dispose of their farms and other property, in many instances for one-half or one-third of its value; in some cases leave their property to be disposed of by their agents at some future day, and start on a wilderness journey of 2,000 miles, with a reckless trust in the future.

## THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 17, 1850.

### OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

As the year is beginning to draw to a close, we shall soon commence the work of sending circulars and renewing subscribers. We now merely call their attention to it, so that they may be prepared. We hope every one of our friends has come to the resolution that there must be no falling off, but, on the contrary, an increase of our list.

### FRIEND OF YOUTH.

The last number of the first volume of the *Friend of Youth* was issued on the first of the month. The first number of the second volume will appear in the beginning of November. We hope the five thousand subscribers who have been reading it the past year, will promptly renew. They will recollect that, according to its terms, payment in advance is the invariable rule; so that the second volume of the paper will be sent only to those who shall order it.

Renewal ought to be made before the issue of the next number, so that the publisher may know how large an edition to get out. No time should be lost.

We solicit attention to the following prospectus, and hope our editorial friends will take such notice of it as they may think proper.

### THE FRIEND OF YOUTH—Vol. II, 1851.

A MONTHLY NEWSPAPER.

MRS. MARGARET L. BAILEY, EDITOR.

The *Friend of Youth* is issued on the first of every month, in quarto form, 5 pages, in paper, in neat type, and with tasteful embellishments. Our object is to make the paper an attractive companion for Youth. While we please, we shall also aim to form their taste. In the *Friend of Youth*, we have a Natural History, Descriptions of Natural Scenery, Sketches of Travel, and Notices of New Books for children, we shall converse with them, in language adapted to their comprehension, about the important events of the present era. We know this is not usually done in such publications, and we think we do not mistake the taste or capacity of young people, when we suppose that they will read in the world they live in, beyond the nursery, the school-room, and the play-ground. It shall also be our care to interest them on all great subjects connected with the well-being of mankind. Freedom, Peace, and Temperance, shall receive our earnest advocacy. Teaching our readers to sympathize with the oppressed, and with the suffering, we hope to awaken in them a generous benevolence, and an earnest love and reverence for all that is just and pure; and, while thus inculcating the lessons of love to man, we cannot forget the sacred obligations due to the great Father and Benefactor of all.

To secure variety of entertainment, we have engaged, as regular contributors to our columns, several well-known and distinguished writers, peculiarly qualified to minister to the wants of Youth.

The first number of the 2d volume will be issued on the first of November, commencing.

The terms are—five cents a year for a single copy; five copies for two dollars; or, every person forwarding us four names, with two dollars, shall be entitled to one copy gratis.

It is desirable that the names of subscribers be sent in with as little delay as possible. All communications must be addressed to—

MRS. M. L. BAILEY, Washington, D. C.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 15, 1850.

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### GRAHAM'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

We call attention to the advertisement of Graham's Monthly for 1851. He presents a great programme. We see that he has secured the services of James, the famous novelist. We must be ungracious enough to remark a misconception that may arise from the announcement of Graham's Magazine as one of his regular contributors. We have pleasure in announcing that we have secured her exclusively for the *National Era*, in 1851—with an arrangement, suggested by ourselves, that she should be at liberty to furnish Graham's Magazine with an occasional article.

The editor of that popular Monthly, amidst such a profusion of contributors, will not complain at this arrangement.

RATHER FUNNY.—The veteran editor of the *Union* describes himself as—

"Undergoing privations which few could endure, getting up, for instance, for 11 consecutive nights, and three or four of each week, and rising next morning at eight, and then after an interval of three nights, burning the midnight oil, and breaking for two other nights. No one could endure these physical exertions, except one who had been accustomed to the most arduous labor for forty-six years."

The veteran writer (says the *N. Y. Post*, commenting upon this) "certainly keeps very unusual hours for a man of his age with a family; but we do not see the propriety of his complaints of a want of sleep. A man who retires between three and four o'clock of the morning, and sleeps until the following morning at eight, twenty-eight consecutive hours, ought to get rest enough, if his conscience gives him any thing like a fair chance."

This cannot be beaten.

HOMINGUED.—Some of the editors of the South forgetful of the fondness of their Northern brethren for innocent humor, are publishing the following from the *N. Y. Trib. Misc.*, as all true:

"An eye-witness—We wish to call the attention of the National Whig to the political programme of the Abolitionists of this State, as marked out by Seward, Greeley, & Co. It is briefly this: Seward and John Van Buren have had an interview, and come to an understanding. They are to unite the Abolition sections of their respective parties, and make a grand rally in support of the Syracuse ticket. Seward and the 'Prince' are to stump the State immediately, and harangue the people on the 'slaver question' in general; and the fugitive-slave law in particular. They thus count on an election that will insure success at the coming election, and found a Buffalo platform for 1852, when the slavery question is again to be made the grand issue, under the following free-soil banner:

For President—THOMAS H. BENTON.  
For Vice President—WILLIAM H. SEWARD.  
For United States Senator—JOHN VAN BUREN."

Hon. THOMAS BUTLER KING has received the appointment of Collector at the port of San Francisco. Mr. King is one of the liberal men of the South, and we have no doubt his appointment is a good one.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

An anonymous correspondent in Washington wishes to know whether that great, wise, and good man, General Washington, sanctioned or approved of "African Slavery?"

General Washington was so unfortunate as to be educated in the antiquated opinion that Slavery was an evil. He announced his earnest desire for its removal; said there was but one proper way for its abolition—that was by law; and that so far as his vote could secure this, it should not be wanting. By will, too, he left his slaves free; showing, strangely enough, that he thought Freedom preferable to Slavery. But we must not judge him harshly. His excuse for such notions and conduct is to be found in the general ignorance of our forefathers respecting the true nature and destiny of man. The modern philosophy of the South, in discovering the adaptation of human nature to Slavery, demonstrated that Washington, Jefferson, and the patriots, committed an egregious blunder in supposing that Liberty was the best condition of man.

Our correspondent also inquires whether "a slave was known to starve to death for want of something to eat, to go to the poor-house, or to commit suicide?" We do not suppose that slaves, any more than horses, are apt to be starved to death in the South. As for going to the "poor-house," there is no necessity for that. Slavery is one vast system of pauperism. It reduces all its subjects to absolute poverty, makes provision for their bare maintenance out of their own earnings, and appropriates the remainder to the support, comfort, and luxury of those who work them. Finally, if our anonymous friend be a reader of the newspapers, he must know that suicide among slaves is not infrequently committed.

### CIRCULAR OF MR. BAYLY OF VIRGINIA TO HIS CONSTITUENTS.

Mr. Bayly of Virginia having deemed it necessary to explain and justify to his constituents his vote in favor of the bill for the settlement of the Texas Boundary and the establishment of Territorial Government in New Mexico, his views of the nature and consequences of that measure become of some importance.

Our objections to the bill were, not that it recognized the validity of the Texas claim to New Mexico east of the Rio Grande, or that it overruled the laws of Mexico prohibiting slavery; but, neither; but, we objected to it because it yielded to Texas a portion of territory to which she had no title, proposed to give her ten million dollars to secure her submission to an act of Congress, and did not provide by positive law against the illegal extension of slavery.

This much way of explanation before we proceed to examine the views taken by Mr. Bayly.

To the objection raised by some of his friends that the bill converts slave territory into free soil, Mr. Bayly replies—

"This assumes two propositions absolutely irreconcilable with each other; yet both of them must be established before the truth of the assertion can be sustained. It assumes that the territory transferred is Texas territory, and that the Constitution and laws of Texas do not extend to it. If it is Texas territory, the laws of Texas extend to it; so it continues to exist after the transfer; for the act establishing a Territorial Government does not change its character. If it is not Texas territory, then its character has remained unchanged, and slave territory is not converted into free soil."

If New Mexico be free territory, if the local law prohibiting slavery be still in force there, then, suppose that "the territory transferred" had belonged to Texas, it is clear that the moment it is recognized as a part of New Mexico, it comes under the operation of her law excluding slavery, and becomes "free territory." If it were not Texas territory, of course its character remains unchanged—that is, it continues free territory.

"But it is said that slavery is prohibited in New Mexico by Mexican law. How can that be, if, as is contended, all of it west of the Rio Grande, which contains nearly the whole of her population, be Texas territory? But suppose those who deny the title of Texas, and maintain that all the territory within the limits of New Mexico is Mexican territory, are right; still I deny that there will be any Mexican law in force in that territory which will prohibit slavery. I am not going to know in the case which has been discussed, whether the Mexican laws prohibiting slavery were abrogated or not by the conquest and treaty. It is the opinion of the South that slavery was abrogated; and our support of the Clayton compromise was based upon it. Be that, however, as it may, it is clear beyond cavil or doubt, that Texas has abolished slavery in her own laws and substitute others. The civil law is the law of Mexico. The Territorial bills recognize the existence of the common law. The section relative to jurisdiction of the courts declares that "the supreme and district courts respectively shall possess chancery and common law jurisdiction." To administer "Mexican law" certainly not; but the common law and the chancery law derived from England. It may be said that African slavery cannot exist under that law. We are always indebted to their courtesy, and hope to be laid under still greater obligations.

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"This assumes two propositions absolutely irreconcilable with each other; yet both of them must be established before the truth of the assertion can be sustained. It assumes that the territory transferred is Texas territory, and that the Constitution and laws of Texas do not extend to it. If it is Texas territory, the laws of Texas extend to it; so it continues to exist after the transfer; for the act establishing a Territorial Government does not change its character. If it is not Texas territory, then its character has remained unchanged, and slave territory is not converted into free soil."

If New Mexico be free territory, if the local law prohibiting slavery be still in force there, then, suppose that "the territory transferred" had belonged to Texas, it is clear that the moment it is recognized as a part of New Mexico, it comes under the operation of her law excluding slavery, and becomes "free territory." If it were not Texas territory, of course its character remains unchanged—that is, it continues free territory.

"But it is said that slavery is prohibited in New Mexico by Mexican law. How can that be, if, as is contended, all of it west of the Rio Grande, which contains nearly the whole of her population, be Texas territory? But suppose those who deny the title of Texas, and maintain that all the territory within the limits of New Mexico is Mexican territory, are right; still I deny that there will be any Mexican law in force in that territory which will prohibit slavery. I am not going to know in the case which has been discussed, whether the Mexican laws prohibiting slavery were abrogated or not by the conquest and treaty. It is the opinion of the South that slavery was abrogated; and our support of the Clayton compromise was based upon it. Be that, however, as it may, it is clear beyond cavil or doubt, that Texas has abolished slavery in her own laws and substitute others. The civil law is the law of Mexico. The Territorial bills recognize the existence of the common law. The section relative to jurisdiction of the courts declares that "the supreme and district courts respectively shall possess chancery and common law jurisdiction." To administer "Mexican law" certainly not; but the common law and the chancery law derived from England. It may be said that African slavery cannot exist under that law. We are always indebted to their courtesy, and hope to be laid under still greater obligations.

MRS. M. L. BAILEY, Washington, D. C.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 15, 1850.

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### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

An anonymous correspondent in Washington wishes to know whether that great, wise, and good man, General Washington, sanctioned or approved of "African Slavery?"

General Washington was so unfortunate as to be educated in the antiquated opinion that Slavery was an evil. He announced his earnest desire for its removal; said there was but one proper way for its abolition—that was by law; and that so far as his vote could secure this, it should not be wanting. By will, too, he left his slaves free; showing, strangely enough, that he thought Freedom preferable to Slavery. But we must not judge him harshly. His excuse for such notions and conduct is to be found in the general ignorance of our forefathers respecting the true nature and destiny of man. The modern philosophy of the South, in discovering the adaptation of human nature to Slavery, demonstrated that Washington, Jefferson, and the patriots, committed an egregious blunder in supposing that Liberty was the best condition of man.

Our correspondent also inquires whether "a slave was known to starve to death for want of something to eat, to go to the poor-house, or to commit suicide?" We do not suppose that slaves, any more than horses, are apt to be starved to death in the South. As for going to the "poor-house," there is no necessity for that. Slavery is one vast system of pauperism. It reduces all its subjects to absolute poverty, makes provision for their bare maintenance out of their own earnings, and appropriates the remainder to the support, comfort, and luxury of those who work them. Finally, if our anonymous friend be a reader of the newspapers, he must know that suicide among slaves is not infrequently committed.

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